Import of wheat and rice

1995. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and quality of wheat and rice imported in the country, separately, during the last six months alongwith the price of its import and the dates therefor;

(b) the quantum of wheat, gram, rice and other foodgrains expected to be imported during the next six months (March, 2008) alongwith the price thereof at which expected to be imported;

(c) the main reasons for the said imports; and

(d) the distribution pattern of the imported wheat and rice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rise in cost of pulses

1996. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of pulses has gone up in domestic market and the cost of imported pulses has also gone up;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the remedial action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) International prices of imported pulses mainly chana, tur, masoor, yellow and dun peas have shown an increase during the last one year. However, international prices of urad and moong shown a decline. On the other side, whole sale domestic prices of pulses mainly chana, urad and moong have been showing down ward trend due to import of pulses. However, domestic wholesale prices of tur and masoor dal are showing an increase due to decline in production of tur dal and masoor dal.

(c) Remedial action taken in this regard is as follows:—

(i) Customs duty on import of pulses was reduce to zero on June 8, 2006 and the period of validity of import of pulses at zero duty has been extended from 31.3.07 to 1.8.2007 and further to 31.3.09.

(ii) A ban was imposed on export of pulses with effect from June 22, 2006 (except export of Kabuli chana w.e.f. 7.3.07). The period of validity of prohibition on exports of pulses which was initially upto 31.3.07 was further extended upto 31.3.2008 *vide* DGFT Notification dated 9.3.2007.

(iii) As per initiative of Government the State agencies (NAFED, PEC Ltd, MMTC and STC) would target to import 1.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of imports of pulses. Out of the total contracts of 12.23 lakh tonnes made by these agencies, 7.21 lakh tonnes have arrived up to 13.11.2007.